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0521829682 - Behavioral Social Choice: Probabilistic Models, Statistical Inference, and Applications

Michel Regenwetter, Bernard Grofman, A. A. J. Marley and Ilia Tsetlin

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Behavioral Social Choice

Behavioral Social Choice looks at the probabilistic foundations of collective decision making rules. The authors challenge much of the existing theoretical wisdom about social choice processes, and seek to restore faith in the possibility of democratic decision making. In particular, they argue that worries about the supposed prevalence of majority rule cycles that would preclude groups from reaching a final decision about what alternative they prefer have been greatly overstated. In practice, majority rule can be expected to work well in most real-world settings. Furthermore, if there is a problem, they show that the problem is more likely to be one of sample estimates missing the majority winner in a close contest (e.g., Bush–Gore) than a problem about cycling. The authors also provide new mathematical tools to estimate the prevalence of cycles as a function of sample size. They provide new insights into how alternative model specifications can change our estimates of social orderings.

Michel Regenwetter is Associate Professor of Psychology and Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Dr. Regenwetter has published over 20 scholarly articles in leading academic journals in his field, including *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition*, *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*, *Management Science*, *Mathematical Social Sciences*, *Psychological Review*, *Psychometrika*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, and *Theory and Decision*. Dr. Regenwetter has served as guest associate editor for *Management Science*, and since 2003, he has been a permanent member of the editorial board of *Journal of Mathematical Psychology*.

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Regenwetter performed the research and writing that went into this book while he was a graduate student in the program in Mathematical Behavioral Sciences in the School of Social Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, as a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology at McGill University, as an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, briefly as a scholar in residence at the Center for the Study of Democracy at the University of California, Irvine, and as an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He completed his work on the book while an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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(The Netherlands); he completed his work on the book while a Professor Emeritus at McGill University (Canada) and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychology, University of Victoria (Canada).

Tsetlin performed the research and writing for this book while he was a Ph.D. student in Decision Sciences at the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University. He completed his work on the book while an Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences at INSEAD (France and Singapore).

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